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**BAKERSFIELD MAN INDICTED FOR RECEIPT AND
POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

FRESNO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that a federal grand jury returned a two-count indictment charging CASS EUGENE MITCHELL, 23, of Bakersfield, California with receiving and possessing child pornography.

This case is the product of an extensive, joint investigation by the FBI, and the Kern County Sheriff's Department, Sex Crimes Unit.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Sherrill A. Carvalho, who is prosecuting the case, the indictment alleges that on or about September 7, 2004, CASS MITCHELL received and distributed via the computer images of child pornography. The indictment also alleges that on or about March 16, 2005, the defendant possessed child pornography when his computer was seized.

According to an affidavit previously filed with a search warrant in the case, the investigation began when the FBI received a tip that a person using the screen name Newkastafer3@Yahoo.com sent files containing child pornography to an individual who later reported it to law enforcement. Further investigation revealed that CASS MITCHELL had the IP address associated with that screen name. A federal search warrant to search his computer hard drive followed.

If convicted, the maximum penalty under federal law for the offense of receipt of child pornography is 20 years in prison and for possession of child pornography is 10 years in prison, and a maximum fine of \$250,000 for each count.

The charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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